Chapter 46

Western Sun

I'VE BEEN TO ANY CLUB.
FOR ME, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
I CAN LOOK AT THE BOOK, RIGHT?
"WHEN THE KING IS SURRONDED, THE GAME ENTERS ITS FINAL MOVES," EH?
Hmm Hmm
GO AHEAD.

IN MAY

THE SHOGI SCIENCES CLUB BEGINS ITS MEETINGS

I MEAN,
WHAT DO YOU DO?
If you capture three pawns, use them as a trap
Knights are good at taking pawns
Getting a pawn behind a Gold General is harder than scaling a cliff.
...e more important the piece, the harder it is to hit.
I even prepared shogi flash cards...
Uhh...
AND I WAS EVEN FOLLOWING A GUIDE, TAKING PRECAUTIONS,
BUT WHEN YOUR OPPONENT ALSO HAS A GUIDE, TELLING HIM HOW TO ATTACK...
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR OWN FAILURE BY DECLARING "I LOST."
IN EVERYDAY LIFE, MATTERS OF VICTORY OR DEFEAT AREN'T THIS HARD FOUGHT FOR...
IS THERE EVER ANY END?!
WELL NO.
THERE REALLY ISN'T.
SO IF HE DOES THAT,
THEN I HAVE TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST HIS PRECAUTIONS TO MY PRECAUTIONS?
Waaah
EVEN IF YOU TAKE FULL PRECAUTIONS, YOU OPPONENT MAY HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTIONS TO YOUR PRECAUTIONS...
BUT

dum dum
I got your back, sir!
I'm tough, meow!
SO,
AFTER PROMOTING IT? WHAT THEN?
SO IT'S GOOD TO HAVE AS MANY COMPANIONS AS YOUR ALLIES AS POSSIBLE, SO YOU CAN LAY SEIGE TO THE KING.
THE END GOAL OF ANY GAME IS TO TAKE THE ENEMY KING.
IF THE ENEMY HAS A SILVER MOVING IN HERE,
THE BEST THING TO DO IS PROMOTE YOUR ROOK.
IN THIS STATE, IT'S BEST TO TRY AN PRESERVE THE PIECES YOU ALREADY HAVE.
OF COURSE, IT'S NOT LIKELY YOUR OPPONENT WILL PLAY IN THE WAY OUTLINED IN YOUR BOOK,
SO YOU HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE WAY THEY'RE PLAYING TOO.
Guide
Anyone Can Play!
Beginner's Shogi Handbook
So Easy!

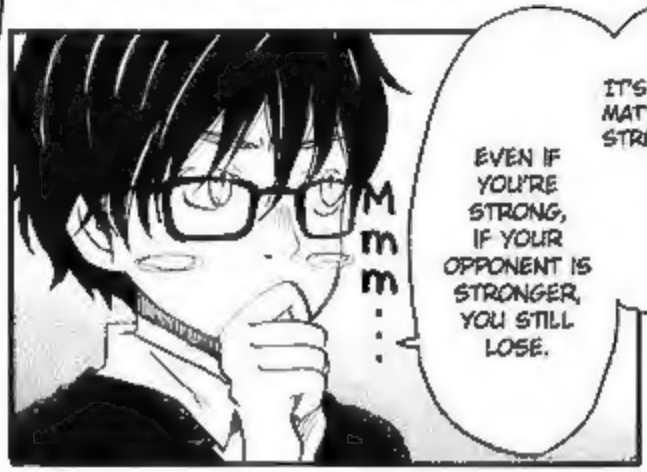
over to you!!
We will never hand the king
Give us the king!
GROWL
MEOW!!
SNEAK SNEAK
rustle
Stay back!
Aack
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MANY PIECES YOU HAVE,
SO BY THE SAME TOKEN IF YOU USE THEM ALL TO DEFEND, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ADVANCE EITHER.
STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE OF OFFENCE AND DEFENSE IS THE ETERNAL THEME OF SHOGI.
I will help out too!
HEY SILVER, GET BACK HERE, WE NEED YOU!
dash
tremble
shake
AH, YOU FIGURED THAT OUT, WELL DONE! YOU'RE RIGHT!
BUT IF I TAKE ALL MY ALLIES AND ATTACK, THAT LEAVES MY OWN HOME BASE UNDERSTAFFED!
sob
sob
SLAP

playing online
I'M GONNA LOSE AT THIS RATE!
Boss, I need you to beat this punk!
HELP ME BEAT THE TAR OUT OF THIS GUY!
WHAT SHOULD MY NEXT MOVE BE?
eeegh
gah!
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO HEAR HIM LAUGH AT ME AGAIN!
TRY THINKING OF SOMETHING ON YOUR OWN.
.....
KIRIYAMA!!
I KNOW I'VE BEEN GIVING YOU A LOT TO REMEMBER.
OH YEAH ALSO
BUT IN ADDITION TO STUDYING BOOKS, YOU CAN PLAY ONLINE NOW,
SO EVEN HOME ALONE YOU CAN ENJOY-
They'd be done right? You know that, don't you?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU CAUGHT SOMEONE CHEATING ON AN EXAM?
NO CHEATING.
You are being so stingy!
WHY ARE YOU SO COLD KIRIYAMA? AREN'T YOU A FORMER STUDENT OF MINE?!
YOU AREN'T A CHILD.
IT'S NOT REASON! THOSE ARE THE RULES.
I DON'T WANT TO LISTEN TO REASON RIGHT NOW!

COME ON, LET'S KEEP PLAYING.
LOSING IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
YOU'RE TELLING ME I HAVE TO "PRACTICE LOOSING?"
Ugh...
NOT JUST PRACTICE LOSING,
IF YOU CAN'T GET OVER THE FRUSTRATION OF LOSS,
YOU WON'T GET THE HANG OF IT UNLESS YOU PLAY A LOT.
THEN IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO LEARN FROM IT.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, IT CAN FEEL SO BAD. IT'S LIKE HAVING YOUR ORGANS YANKED OUT.
You mean
It never stops?!
YES.
IT'S ALWAYS VEXING AND ALWAYS DIFFICULT.
Unless you win, of course.
Whaaat?!

HOW STRONG DO YOU HAVE TO BE BEFORE IT STOPS BEING SO DIFFICULT TO LOSE?
Question!


IT'S NOT A MATTER OF STRENGTH.
EVEN IF YOU'RE STRONG, IF YOUR OPPONENT IS STRONGER, YOU STILL LOSE.
Mmm...

NO MATTER HOW GOOD YOU GET, LOSING IS ALWAYS HARD.
TO THAT POINT, THE MORE TIME YOU SPEND PLAYING AND THE BETTER YOU GET, THE MORE A LOSS CAN HURT.
HOLD ON A MINUTE, KIRIYAMA!
STOP! Nonstop chattering
Huh?
EVEN LIKE PLAYING SHOGI?
DO YOU...
HUH?
LIKE...
20 SECONDS PASS
10 SECONDS PASS
Images in the background
5 SECONDS PASS

SPIN
rainbow ball (Mac)
Frozen
HEY NOW, KIRIYAMA,
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE SOME TEA?
THIS IS BARLEY TEA MADE FROM THE WHEAT WE GREW BEHIND THE SCHOOL.
YOU'RE STILL ALL ABOUT SELF-SUFFICIENCY, HUH NOGUCHI...
It's not really a school so much as a farm anymore, huh?
ugh
There's also dandelion green tea, and coffee.
Oh no!

KIRIYAMA, COME BACK QUICKLY!
AH, YES, THIS TEA IS GOOD FOR CLEARING YOU OUT.
I'M GONNA GO TO THE BATHROOM FOR A MINUTE.
Hmm
woosh
wobble
Tea

gulp
gulp
gulp

OH!
YES,
I'LL BE BACK SOON!
THE BROADCAST OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME IS STARTING AT 4

IT'S TRUE THEN
I DIDN'T REALIZE...
KIRIYAMA IS ALREADY LIVING THE SAME LIFE THAT THE PROS LIVE.
HE HAS TO BURDEN
THOSE SEVERE WINS AND LOSSES HE MENTIONED.
Eek!
Ha Ha Ha
EVERY DAY OF HIS LIFE.
Ha Ha Ha

THE CURRENT GRAND MASTER, SOYA
ONLY WINS 70% OF THE TIME.
SO OUT OF EVERY 10 GAMES, HE LOSES ABOUT 3 OF THEM.
AH YES.
I KNOW HIM.
HE'S THE ONE HOLDING 7 TITLES RIGHT NOW, ISN'T HE?
HE'LL BE PLAYING IN TODAY'S GAMES AS WELL.
YEAH, THIS WILL BE THE SECOND GAME.
THE FIRST GAME WAS A LOSS BY CHALLENGER KUMAKURA.
NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU GET,
DEFEAT STILL STINGS.

THE 69TH SHOGI CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES: GAME TWO. TODAY MARKS THE FIRST DAY.
OH,
IT'S ON!
I WONDER WHAT THEY MUST FEEL.
SO,
WHEN SOMEBODY AS HIGH RANKING AS THIS LOOSES,

THEN AT 8:55, THE CHAMPION SOYA ENTERED.
FIRST AT 8:53 AM, CHALLENGER KUMAKURA KENGO ENTERED THE HALL.
LET'S BEGIN WITH THE MORNING'S EVENTS. BOTH PLAYERS ENTERED THE HALL.

THE SECOND GAME OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES WILL BEGIN SHORTLY.
THE GAME BEGAN AT 9:00 AM.
THE KISHOU TITLE, I MEAN.
IT'S BEEN A REALLY LONG TIME SINCE ANYONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CHALLENGE SOYA FOR THE TITLE.
YES WELL.
I'M ENVIOUS.
THAT LOOKS LIKE FUN.
crunch
OOH SCARY
THIS SHOULD BE GOOD.
mutter

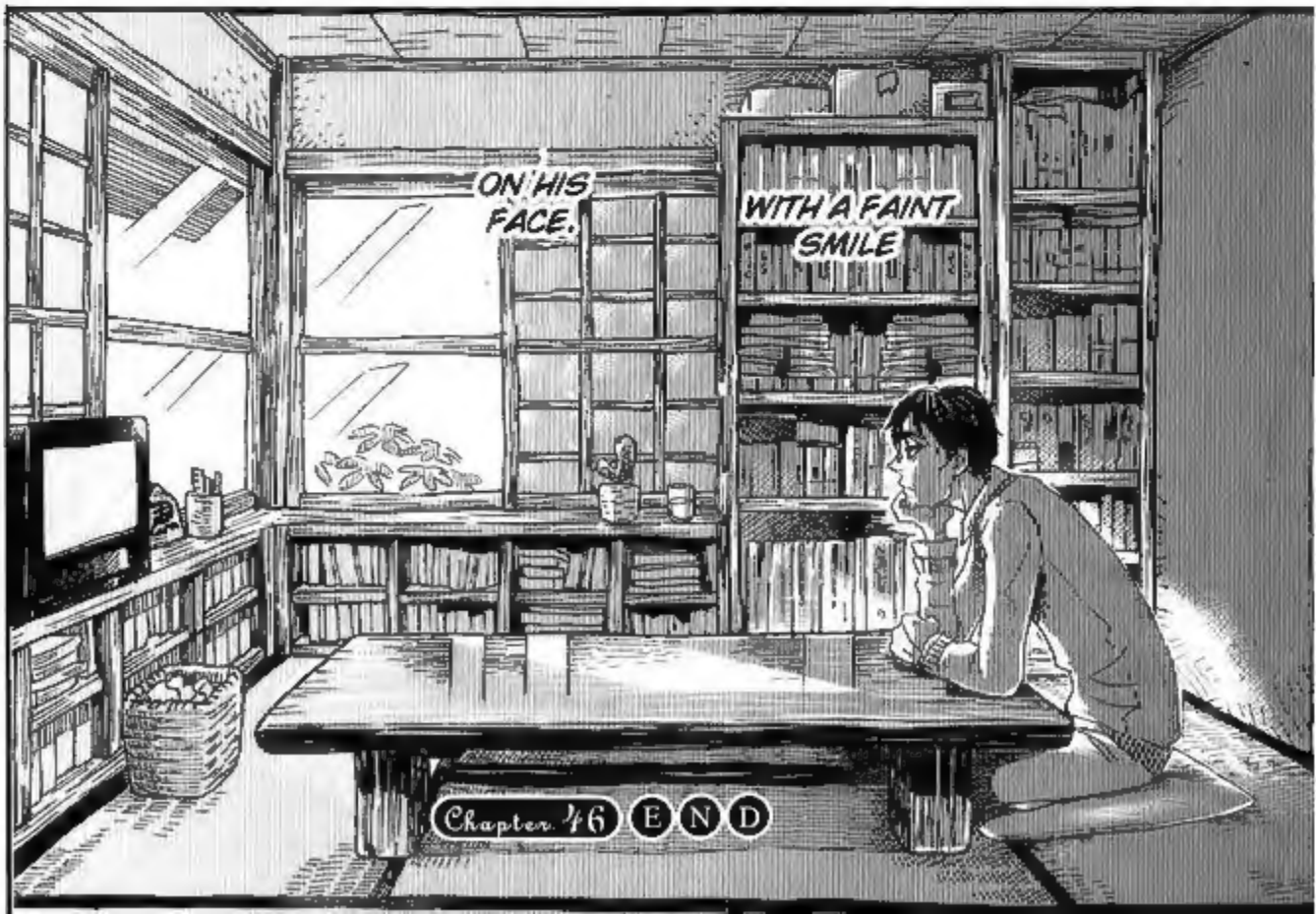
PARDEN ME,
YOU SERIOUSLY PLAY WITH YOUR OPPONENTS THEN.
BETTER THAN YOU,
YOU ALWAYS PLAY WITH AND RIDICULE YOUR OPPONENTS.
PLAY WITH..?
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I TAKE ALL MY GAMES SERIOUSLY.
HA HA HA
munch munch
Ah how scary
I BET SOYA'S GOING TO CRUSH HIM ALL WHILE KEEPING THAT CUTE LOOK ON HIS FACE.
EH
THE PHYSICAL STRAIN OF IT IS TOO MUCH FOR ME NOW.
AFTER ALL, WE'RE NO SPRING CHICKENS ANYMORE.
It would kill me, now.
Shogi Hall
ONLY THE ONES WHERE YOU WIN AFTER HAVING A SERIOUS EXCHANGE
REALLY FEEL LIKE THEY MEAN ANYTHING THOUGH.
THEN I BET SOYA MUST BE HAPPY,
TO HAVE KUMAKURA
AS HIS OPPONENT.
IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO WIND UP BEING THE SAME THING HAPPENING TO KUMAKURA
AS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAST GUY.
STRIKING WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT,
YOU CAN BET SOMEONE THE SAME RANK IS GONNA HIT YOU JUST AS HARD IN RETURN.
EVEN IF YOU USE ALL YOUR SKILL,
YOU DON'T WALK AWAY UNSCARRED.

WHAT SOYA REALLY WANTS IS AN OPPONENT ON HIS LEVEL
SOMEONE HE CAN PLAY WITH
WITHOUT BREAKING LIKE A FLIMSY TOY.

RIGHT NOW, SHIMADA...
I FOUND MYSELF WONDERING,
THESE TWO MAKE QUITE THE PICTURE,
DON'T THEY?

IS HE WATCHING
THESE TWO AS WELL?

WITH THE SETTING SUN PAINTING THE WORLD RED.
LOOKING AT HIS FACE ON A SCREEN,


ON HIS FACE.
WITH A FAINT SMILE
Chapter 46 END